

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An operation unit, comprising an enclosed space formed from at least two side walls, a roof element, a back wall and a wall, the operation unit further including and an air flow unit, said air flow unit being provided with means for filtering said air, said wall being provided with at least one opening and a cover, covering at least part of said opening, said air flow unit comprising at least one air outlet opening within the enclosed space for directing air from said air flow unit over said cover, and air inlet means within the enclosed space ~~being provided~~ for retracting air from within said enclosed space operation unit to said air flow unit.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, which unit is at least partly foldable.

4. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 2, in which the side walls and roof element are foldable over and/or against said flow unit, the back wall preferably being foldable and/or made of strip-like elements.

5. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which said cover is substantially made of cloth, especially a surgery blanket.

6. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which said at least one opening is dimensioned such that at least an end of a hospital bed, stretcher or the like can be inserted through said opening under said cover.

7. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which said at least one opening is dimensioned such that an extremity of a person can be inserted at least partly through said opening under said cover.

8. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which the outlet opening extends over at least the width of said at least one opening.

9. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which the outflow direction of said outflow opening is directed downward in a direction away from said wall.

10. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which the air inlet opening is situated lower than said outflow opening.

11. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which openings are provided near the ground for connection of an inner space of said unit and the surrounding.

12. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which at least part of said wall and preferably part of said wall and at least part of side walls and a back wall of said unit are made transparent.

13. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which said unit is provided with wheels for easy displacement of said unit.

14. (Original) An operation unit according to claim 1, in which the air flow unit is provided near the upper end of said wall and is connected to the air outlet by a first connecting pipe and to the air inlet by a second connecting pipe, said connecting pipes being provided near either side of said wall, preferably such that said connecting pipes and said air flow unit form part of a frame of said operation unit.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a person for surgery, in which said person is positioned on a bed, stretcher, chair or the like supporting structure, whereby part of the body of said person on which surgery is to be performed is moved into an operation unit having an air flow unit through an opening under a cover, especially a cloth, into an enclosed area of the operation unit having an air outlet and an air inlet within the enclosed area, an opening being

provided in said cloth disclosing an operation area, a flow of substantially sterile air being guided from the air outlet over said cover and at least said operating area.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, in which said air is recirculated through a flow unit filtering said air for sterilisation purposes.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, in which said part of said body is moved through an opening in a wall of an operation unit comprising a wall and an air flow unit, said air flow unit being provided with means for filtering said air, said wall being provided with at least one opening and a cover, covering at least part of said opening, said air flow unit comprising at least one air outlet opening for directing air from said air flow unit over said cover, air inlet means being provided for retracting air from within said operation unit to said air flow unit, under said cover.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for performing surgery on a person, in which said person is positioned on a bed, stretcher, chair or the like supporting structure, whereby part of the body of said person on which surgery is to be performed is moved into an operation unit having an air flow unit through an opening under a cover, especially a cloth, into an enclosed area of the operation unit having an air outlet and an air inlet within the enclosed area, an opening being provided in said cloth disclosing an operation area, a flow of substantially sterile air being guided from the air outlet over said cover and at least said operating area.

19. (Currently Amended) An operation unit, comprising an enclosed space having a wall and an air flow unit, said air flow unit being provided with means for filtering said air, said wall being provided with at least one opening and a cover, covering at least part of said opening, said air flow unit comprising at least one air outlet opening within the enclosed space for directing air from said air flow unit over said cover, air inlet means within the enclosed space and being provided for retracting air to said air flow unit, wherein said at least one air outlet opening is provided adjacent said opening.

20. (Currently Amended) An operation unit, comprising a wall, an enclosed space within said unit and an air flow unit, ~~said air flow unit being provided within said space and~~ provided with means for filtering said air, said wall being provided with at least one opening and a cover, covering at least part of said opening, said air flow unit comprising at least one air outlet opening within the enclosed space for directing air from said air flow unit over said cover, air inlet means within the enclosed space and being provided for retracting air to said air flow unit.

21. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 19, wherein a transparent part is provided above said opening, said at least one air outlet opening being provided between said transparent part and said opening.

22. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 21, wherein said at least one air outlet opening or series of air outlet openings extend over the width of the cover.

23. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 19, wherein said at least one air inlet opening is provided adjacent a side of said opening.

24. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 23, wherein said at least one air inlet opening is provided lower than said at least one air inlet opening.

25. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 19, wherein an air duct is provided next to a transparent part of said wall above said opening, forming part of a connection between said at least one air inlet opening with said at least one air outlet opening.

26. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 19, wherein between a lower edge of said wall and a floor on which said unit is placed at least one gap is provided, lower than said at least one air inlet opening, for pressure equalisation between the inner space of the unit and the environment thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 20, wherein a transparent part is provided above said opening, said at least one air outlet opening being provided between said transparent part and said opening.

28. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 27, wherein said at least one air outlet opening or series of air outlet openings extend over the width of the cover.

29. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 20, wherein said at least one air inlet opening is provided adjacent a side of said opening.

30. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 29, wherein said at least one air inlet opening is provided lower than said at least one air inlet opening.

31. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 20, wherein an air duct is provided next to a transparent part of said wall above said opening, forming part of a connection between said at least one air inlet opening with said at least one air outlet opening.

32. (Previously Presented) An operation unit according to claim 20, wherein between a lower edge of said wall and a floor on which said unit is placed at least one gap is provided, lower than said at least one air inlet opening, for pressure equalisation between the inner space of the unit and the environment thereof.